

GSA Stipend & Cost-of-Living Analysis

Appendix B. Cost of Living Analysis

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2023-02-21

Cost of Living

Distribution of Common Costs

To understand the cost of basic necessities of graduate students, the GSA cost of living survey asked respondents to indicate their basic expenditures in pre-assigned ranges. To quantify responses, values were recorded as the midpoint of the assigned range. Basic necessities include: Rent, Utilities, Food, Transportation, Health out-of-pocket, household goods. In total, 775 respondents were used in this analysis.

The average total cost of basic necessities was \$21,514.84. The high-density 50% interval was \$9,600 and \$34,800. It should be noted that the cost of basic necessities is below what is considered a living wage by the MIT living wage calculator.

What is the average monthly housing cost?

The Average students spends \$1008.29/month on housing costs. However, several students report spending much more. 30.06% of students reported paying over \$1200.00/month.

What is the housing cost based on living situation?

Grad students live in several contexts and this can affect the total cost of housing.

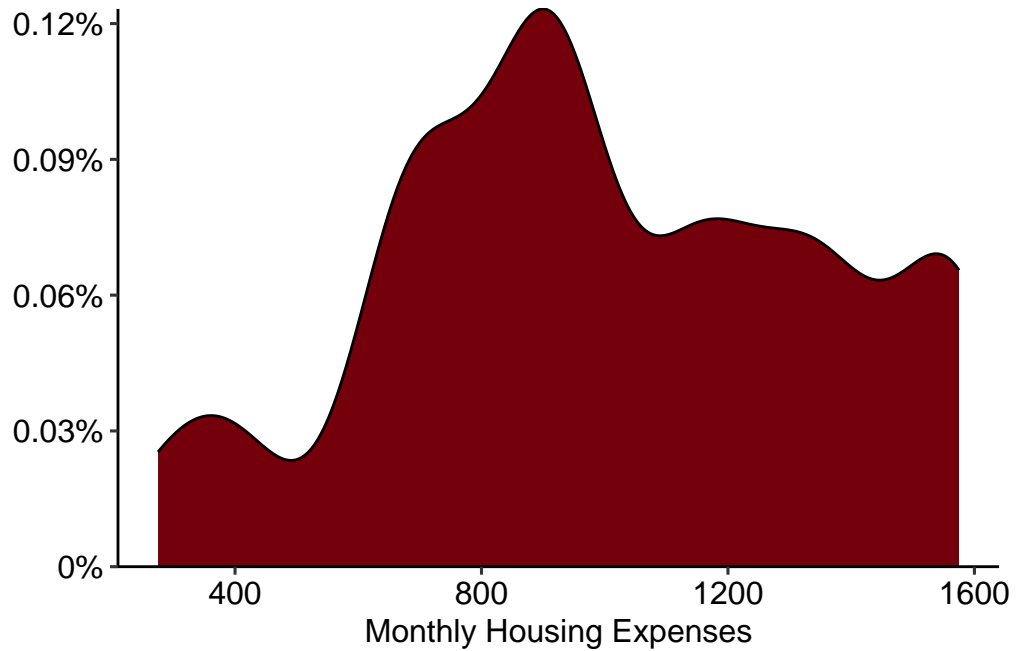
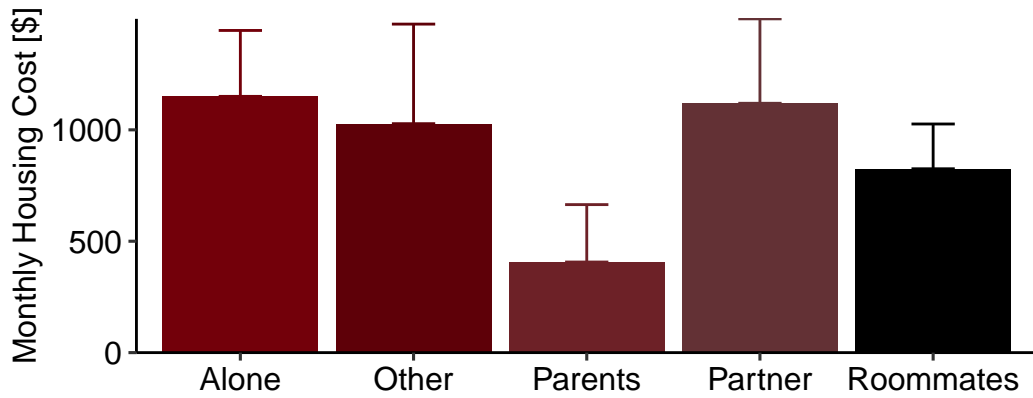


Figure 1: Distribution of housing expenditures by graduate students.



Roommates 33.03%	Other 4.9%	Parents 2.45%
	Alone 26.45%	
Partner 33.16%		

Figure 2: Cost of housing based on living situation and the proportion of graduate students in each living situation.

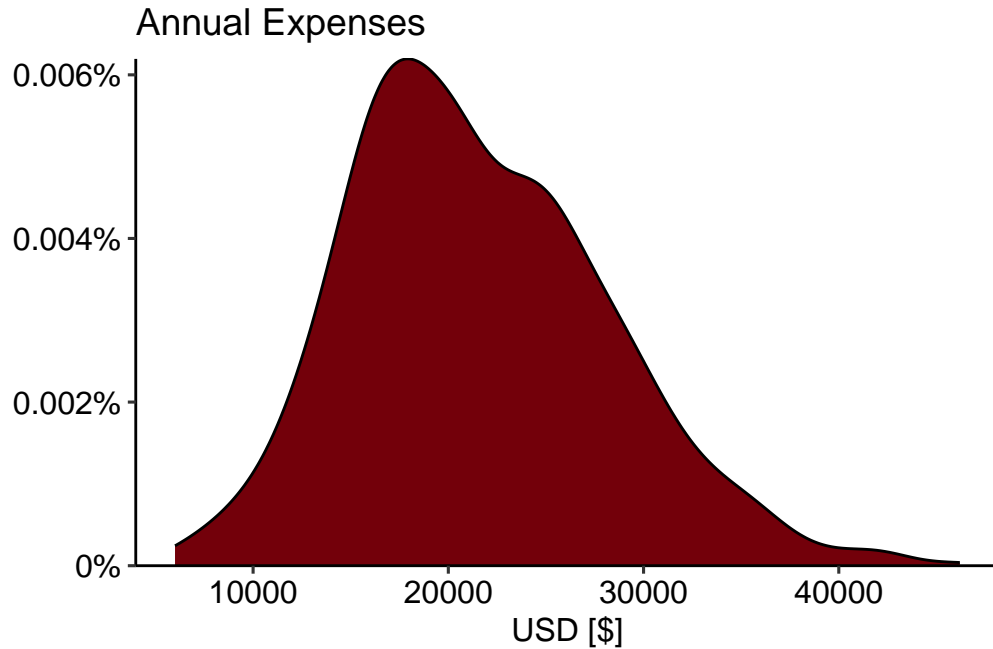


Figure 3: Distribution of total cost of basic necessities.

What is the total cost of living distribution?

How many people are reliant on external support?

Many students rely on external support from friends/family or will take out loans to help cover their expenses. Overall, 45.16% of respondents indicated that they took out loans. 39.23% of respondents stated they rely on friends or family for financial support. Those who receive financial support are less likely to take out aid.

For those who do not receive financial support from others, the average annual cost of living is 2.221407×10^4 .

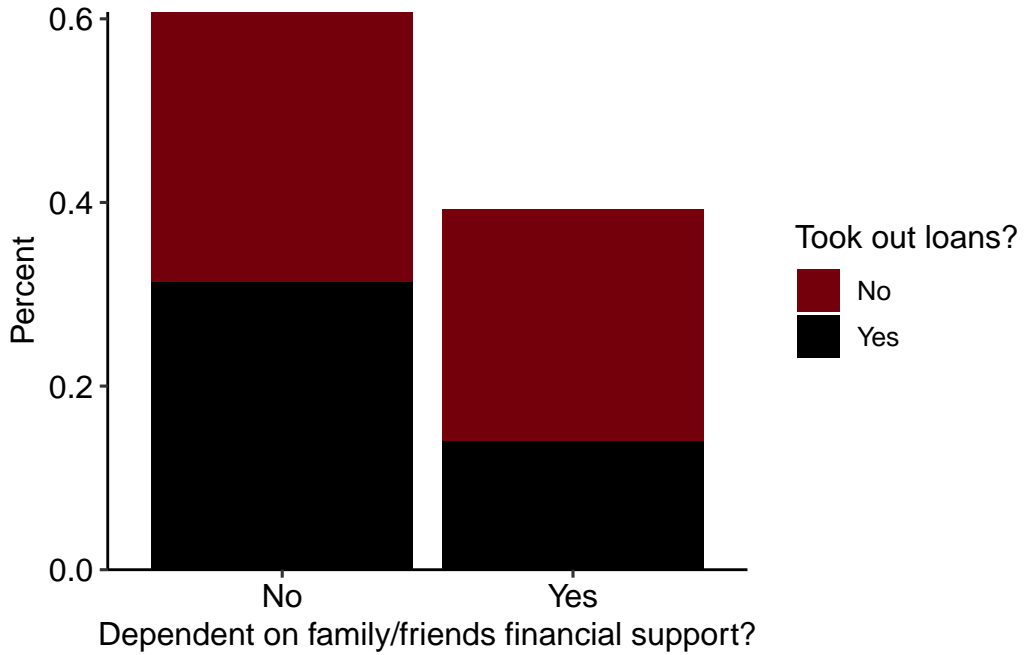
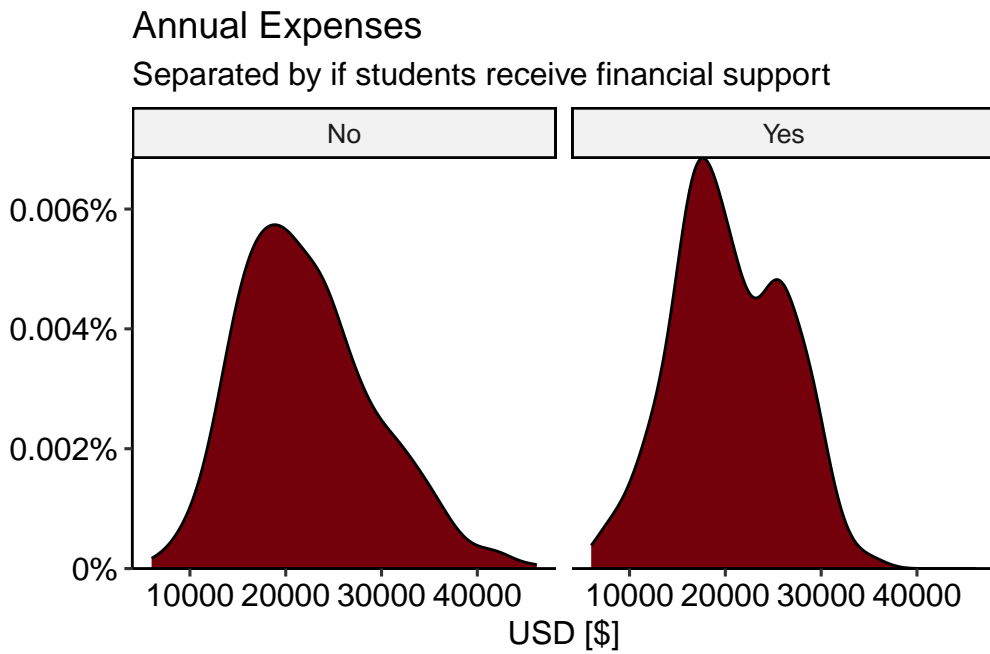
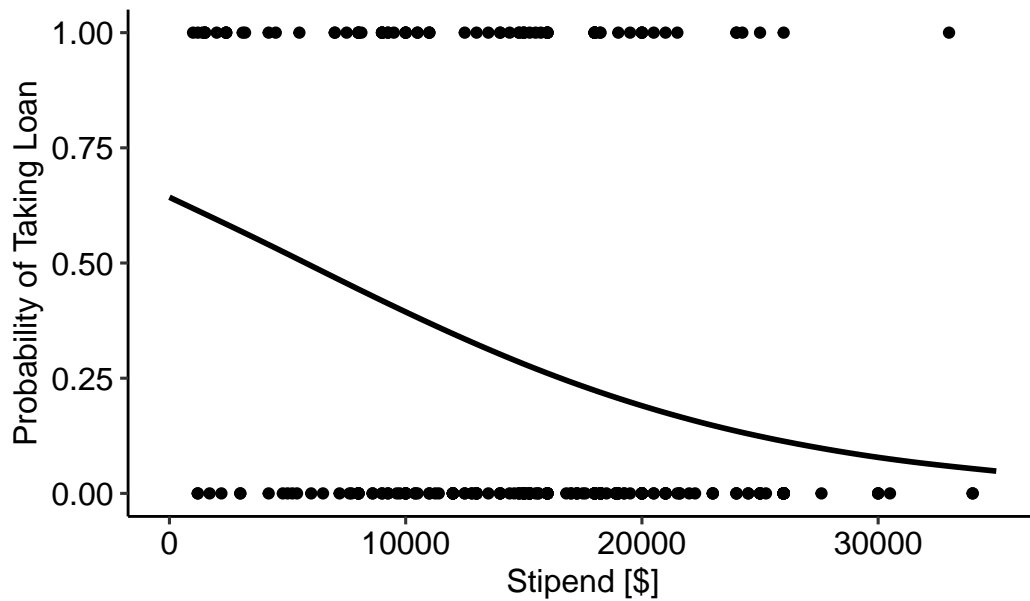


Figure 4: Proportion of students reliant on external support and loans.



How likely are people to take out loans based on stipend?

How does stipend affect likelihood of taking out a loan?



How likely are people to take a loan based on degree type?

Professional students are far more likely to take out loans and were excluded from this analysis. It was found that 43.1% of Master's students took loans while 21.1% of Doctoral students took loans.

